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### WILL THE BUILDING BE SOLD?

Law Alumni Up in Arms—A Wave of Protest—Is it a Scheme to Abolish the Law School?

Editor, Washington Bee:

In connection with the persistent rumor that the Board of Trustees of Howard University propose to sell Wm. Evans Hall, the home of the Law Department in Fifth Street, I ask leave to file, as it were, the following statement of fact and opinion by way of protest against the proposed action.

Some years ago the late Dr. T. H. Hamlin, president of the Board of Trustees of Howard University, stood before the student body in Andrew Rankin Chapel and spoke, in effect, as follows: "I want it distinctly understood that Howard University is not being run by any resident or group of residents of the city of Washington. The affairs of this institution are conducted by the Board of Trustees, duly constituted by law, and it is for the Board alone to say what shall be the policy of Howard University." What Dr. Hamlin said was true then and it is true today. What Dr. Hamlin did not say, however, was this: that the Board of Trustees of Howard University, or any other University for that matter, is as powerless to stem the tide of a just indignation as a fishing smack to stay the ocean's fury off the Hook of Holland. The administrative functions of a university must be under the direction of some one source of authority; otherwise a university could not be run. For this reason a board of trustees is instituted and maintained. A university, however, has its greatness in the character and dignity of its alumni (and its student body). Without these, a university can have a thousand boards of trustees and still be merely a myth and nothing more.

The words of Dr. Hamlin referred to above, were uttered in connection with certain internal disorders existing in Howard University at that time. The denouement of those events is now a matter of history. Then came President Thirkield, the man of energetic excellence, with a record of all the best years of his life spent in furthering the great uplift among the Negroes of this country. He went to work. The result has been that two blades of grass have been made to grow in the place where before not one blade, but no grass at all had grown. Under his direction Howard University has become a name to conjure with. Yet with all he has done and all he will do in the years to come (of which I trust there may be many), President Thirkield has not demonstrated the uselessness of law schools for the training of Negro lawyers, Dean Swift to the contrary notwithstanding.

Now in addition to all the good things President Thirkield has brought to Howard, close observers have noted that there has been present at all times a very apparent indifference, if not indeed a deep-seated dislike, for the law school. Dr. Thirkield, from the moment of his coming, took up the Medical Department as his "own sweet child," fondled and petted it, and gave it the best of everything, until it got "entirely too big for its pants," as ye old-time mothers used to say, and finally it turned and struck the very hand that had so coddled it. Today the Medical Department stands as the one department of the University whose faculty and students have assumed an insufferable air of independence of, and insult to, the executive head of the institution. On the other hand President Thirkield has neglected, ignored, frowned down the Law School and rammed it into last place in everything. He has made contemptuous reference to its fine library, while the fees which its students pay in every year (and when I say pay I mean pay, and not promise to pay) have been used—where? Certainly not in the law library. I happened to drop into the Law School library last September. While there I noticed several new volumes spread out upon a table. Upon inquiry I was informed that these, with certain exceptions, were the additions to the law library for the year 1911-12. The total number of volumes scarcely exceeded the annual additions to my own library, purchased out of the "measly" salary of a government mule.

In the catalogue, on the official stationery, in the academic procession, at the graduation, and everywhere, if you want to find the Law School, the quickest way is to look for the heavenly Prep. Department. The Law School will be found along-side of, or just barely in front of the heathen Prep.; that is, if any Preps. are there. Otherwise, at all events, you will find the law men last. The "sky pilots" come first, of course. It is immaterial who comes next, so long as the Law School comes last. I have heard Dr. Thirkield speak for thirty minutes about Howard University, dilating disproportionately on the Medical Department, and giving a few remarks to the other colleges of the University—except one: the Law School. Last year when the academic procession formed to march into the Chapel for the baccalaureate sermon, the eternal Preps., of course, were right with us, and when we reached our seats to our disgust we found that three of the Preps. were actually sandwiched in between, and were about to be seated among the law men. To Dr. Tunnel is due the credit for averting what might have been, to say the least, a very unfortunate occurrence. Just as several of us were about to fling the nondescripts out into the aisle, Dr. Tunnel grasped the situation, and beckoning the Preps. to follow him, thereupon proceeded to lose them somewhere back in the jungles where they belonged. I may observe at this point, parenthetically, that if the University must ram some department down next to the heathen Prep., that queer "College of Liberal Arts" with its two deans and peculiar assortment of degrees, should make the most suitable choice. The

College of Law belongs distinctly and exclusively UP FRONT.

After all that has been done to humiliate the Law School, now comes this new move to sell the law building. The move should be scrutinized with the utmost care, for I have not the slightest doubt that it marks the beginning of the end of the Law School. The rumor says "they are going to have a new building. It will be erected on that vacant space at the corner of Georgia and Howard Avenues. The idea is to have all the University buildings together on the campus." In the first place, altho the vacant space referred to belongs to Howard University, it is not a part of the campus, nor will placing a building on it make it so. It is entirely outside of the campus scheme. It can be said to be any part of the campus of Howard University, then all those houses on Sixth street and Corby's bakery, too, are on the campus.

The main point in this whole matter, however, is this: with the law building on Fifth street once disposed of and re-erected, so to speak, on this "quasi-campus" on Georgia Avenue, then will begin the real disruption of the Law Department. Unless something is done to prevent it, I predict that methods will be found for curtailing and hampering the Law School to such an extent that within a woefully short space of time President Thirkield will feel justified (?) in going before the Board of Trustees and saying, "Developments demonstrate that the Law School has outlived its usefulness as a part of our University scheme. I move that it be abolished." In its place—what? A College of Agriculture? Now, of course, farming is a fine thing, but must the Law School be destroyed in order that farming may be taught in Howard University?

It is time for the alumni and friends of the long suffering Law School to wake up. Seeing what forces are at work against us, it is high time, it seems to me, that the worm turned. It would seem to be time also for President Thirkield to take a new tack and tell the law alumni once for all what he intends to do and assure them that the Law School will sustain no harm. It is time for him to quit reckoning without his host, as it were; for as a matter of fact the law men constitute the one branch of the alumni and student body to be found at this moment squarely and solidly behind President Thirkield in his efforts to uphold Howard University. Dr. Thirkield should not ignore the lesson to be learned from Frederick Barbarossa's treatment of the law students at the Universities of Bologna in ages past. It is a wholesome lesson.

Finally the Law Department of Howard University is a dynamic force at work, quietly, but insistently and effectively, for the Negro race in the United States. It is the one first-class Law School in this whole nation where colored men can study law like men and not like Ishmaels. If it came to the point tomorrow where every department of Howard University would have to be abolished save one, that one department which ought to remain is the Law Department. Its influence for good is being felt all over this country, and in the years to come there are those who will be amazed, I fancy, to learn just what a force this school has been. I recall that as I approached the end of my four years' work in the College of Arts some years ago, I felt a certain degree of pride in that fact. I felt free to say, however, that the first real impressions of what is meant by the full measure of a man which had ever come to me in my whole life time were experienced within the first few weeks of my work in the Law School; and these impressions kept coming until the end of the course, whereupon I stepped forth with a new and an entirely different conception of men and things.

The law alumni have not commissioned me to speak for them, but I am one of them, and I speak for myself. I have not the least doubt, however, that hundreds, indeed practically all, of the law men will support me in saying that any effort on the part of President Thirkield, the Board of Trustees or anybody else to abolish, cripple or further humiliate the Law School will be considered an unfriendly act and one that will call forth an indignation and an opposition that will never down until the Law School shall have been given the consideration to which it is justly entitled.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES C. WATERS, JR.  
College 1904, Law, 1911.

ATHLETICS IN THE SCHOOLS.  
Manager Henderson on the Go.

At the Executive Board meeting of the Public School Athletic League, held yesterday afternoon, plans were laid for an extensive program of athletic sports this spring. Intra division series of baseball games will be conducted by the Division Games Committee, and the various division schedules must be arranged to settle the championship before May 15. At this time the Central Games Committee of the elementary schools will have arranged to start the city championship series between the teams that win division championships. Track work was also considered. It was voted to hold the championship out-door meet on June 8. The events in the four standard weight classifications are: (80 pound class) 50 yard dash, running high jump, running broad jump, and the 300 yard relay race; (95 pound class) 60 yard dash, running high jump, running broad jump, 440 yard relay race; (115 pound class) 70 yard dash, 8 pound shot put, running broad jump and 440 yard relay race; (unlimited weight) 100 yard dash, 12 pound shot put, running high jump, and 880 yard relay race.

One boy will be allowed to enter only one dash, one field event, and one relay event. It is planned to make this one of the biggest events of the league. It was also decided to encourage school field days. On these occasions a school would have

some or all of the standard events for competition, and would arrange events for boys and girls to be entered in by nearly all of the pupils of the upper four grades. School field days in New York and some other cities are features of the school year. One entire school day is permitted each school in many cities, upon which to go to an athletic field and conduct games.

Bulletins will be sent out from headquarters giving information relative to the tournaments and events of the season. The manifold benefits of competition will be evident in large measure during the coming season. Of the one hundred and fifty boys who entered the contest for silver athletic badges only 35 are left to meet the conditions of the final test, that of running 220 yards in 28 seconds or less. Before several hundred spectators, the boys who had been able to chin nine times, jumped to attempt to clear four feet, four inches in height. All were given three trials; fifty-six boys fell by the wayside, while thirty-five cleared the bar. This is probably the largest number of high jumpers to be competing at one time, south of New York, and proved a remarkable exhibition. The event was held under the members of the P. S. A. L. High School Games Committee. The boys who succeeded in clearing the bar are as follows: M. Curtis, C. Johnson, J. Recker, V. Greene, R. Logan, K. Miller, W. Duncan, A. Smith, H. Tyler, W. Hall, G. Smith, E. Davidson, C. Miller, W. Fleming, W. Lacey, J. Cooper, J. E. Trigg, J. Barnes, H. Harris, C. Holmes, G. T. Butler, A. Watson, Fazio, R. Dandridge, G. Burwell, R. Taylor, C. Duckett, J. Burwell, F. Randall, L. Muse, J. Eggleston, C. Dickinson, J. Lofton, J. Brown, and Albert Brooks.

### DEFIED THE COMMODORE.

Reuben Pinkham Was Insubordinate, but He Saved the Vessel and the Crew.

Reuben Pinkham, a native of Nantucket, made his first trip as third lieutenant on the ship Potomac, which crossed the north Pacific, a region little known to naval vessels in the early thirties. Pinkham had been on several whaling voyages and was familiar with those waters. The author of "The Island of Nantucket" says that one day, near sunset, he had the watch, while the commodore was pacing up and down the deck.

Suddenly Pinkham gave the order, "Man the weather braces!" "What's that for?" asked the commodore.

"We shall have wind in a moment," The commodore went to the lee rail and scanned the sea and sky. "I see no signs of wind," he returned. "Let the men leave the braces."

The crew dropped the ropes. "Keep hold of the braces, every man of you!" called out Pinkham, and the men resumed their grasp. The commodore flushed with anger and exclaimed in peremptory tones:

"Let the men leave the braces!" and again the braces were dropped.

"Don't any of you dare to drop the ropes!" shouted Pinkham, shaking his trumpet at the crew, who once more took hold. Just then the wind dropped entirely; not a breath stirred.

"Taut, taut! Haul, all of you!" called Pinkham, and the ponderous yards swung to reversed position. The wind came out of the opposite quarter and struck the ship like a sledge hammer. The vessel staggered, shook the spray from her bows and dashed ahead. The commodore disappeared into his cabin without saying a word.

Presently he sent the first lieutenant to relieve Pinkham, requesting to see the latter immediately. When Pinkham entered the cabin the commodore said:

"I consider that I am indebted to you for all of our lives, but I will tell you frankly if that wind hadn't come I should have put you in irons in two minutes."

Marvels of India.

What a wonderful country is India! There is only one India. Its marvels are its own. There is the plague, the black death. India invented it. The car of Juggernaut was also India's invention. So was the suttee, and within the time of men still living 800 widows willingly and, in fact, joyfully burned themselves to death on the bodies of their dead husbands in a single year. And 800 would do it this year if the British government would let them. Famine belongs especially to India. India has 2,000,000 gods and worships them all. On top of all this she is the mother and home of that wonder of wonders, caste, and also that mystery of mysteries, the Satanic Brotherhood of the Thugs—Churchman.

Setting Her Right.

The pretty and petulant wife of a congressman stood for a moment before the window of the receiving teller in a Washington bank, then tapped the window with her parasol, exclaiming: "Why don't you pay attention to me?"

"We pay nothing here, madam," was the reply. "Please go to the next window."—Denver Republican.

Those Useless Questions.

"How did you get the bruised face?" "It was caused by the hatrack last night."

"Accidentally?"

"No; I think it attacked me purposefully."—Kansas City Journal.

Feminine Ideals.

I look for the day when women will cease to be imitative, copying men, but will become completely, perfectly and proudly women.—A Woman's Letter in London Times.

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